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Motorists advised to take note of temporary, extreme changes in the intersection by old Brenchie's stores



ORANJESTAD – The Department of Public Works (DOW) - section Traffic Planning announces that as of this Thursday, there will be changes in traffic around the Plaza Comercio, due to the current Oranjestad beautification project and installing of tram rails in the main street. The work will last more or less 4 months

The traffic at Nieuwstraat by Sloppy Joe's will be closed to motorists. All vehicles coming east on the Nieuwstraat must turn right onto the Ooststraat, which will temporarily change direction. Presently, traffic enters Ooststraat on the Wilhelminastaat by the former Brenchie's hardware depart-

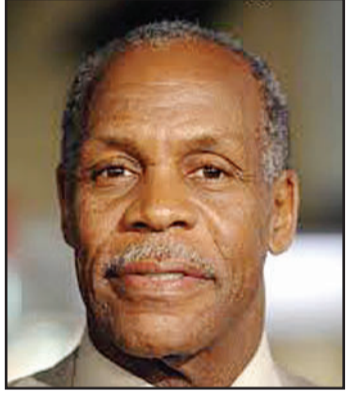
ment, traveling north to the main street; this will change as of tomorrow, Thursday, June 7. Until roadwork is completed, motorists coming from Nieuwstraat will be required to turn right onto the Ooststraat and drive in a southerly direction where they will exit onto the Wilhelminastaat.

Traffic on the one block of the Wilhelmina between the empty Brenchie's building and El Gaucho will be temporarily changed from a one-way to a two-way street. Motorists coming from Ooststraat can now turn left and then turn immediately right to enter Irenestraat. Columbusstraat, which would normally be the road to access Irenestraat coming from Nieuwstraat will not be accessible, as that section between Ooststraat and Columbusstraat will be closed.

There will be an LED sign above Garufa and Nieuwstraat to inform motorists of the changes. There will also be traffic signs to indicate the traffic situation more clearly.

AIFF to welcome Danny Glover, Virginia Madsen, Richard Kind & more to the Red Carpet this year

During the gala opening of the Aruba International Film Festival Art Exposition and Contest at the Cas di Cultura last night, Festival Co-Founder Jonathan Vieira announced the names of some of the celebrities who will be gracing the Red Carpet at this year's event.



The AIFF is particularly proud to welcomed renowned screen star, producer and humanitarian, Danny Glover, a commanding presence in the industry for more than 30 years. Best known for action flicks such as Lethal Weapon 1, 2, 3 and 4, Silverado and Predator II, the versatile actor who can play hero, villain, criminal or savior first rocketed into the public eye as Whoopi Goldberg's abusive husband in The Color Purple and portrayed Nelson Mandela TWICE in two entirely different television movies for PBS and HBO. He has been nominated for 4 Primetime Emmys and is remarkably juggling 12 major films in final stages of production.

Glover's dedication to human rights has earned him the Amnesty International USA Lifetime Achievement Award and an appointment as Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations. He has been very supportive of Caribbean and African cinema and is the honorary president of the Caribbean Traveling Film Showcase, a project which has been adopted by AIFF. AIFF is honored to present Mr. Glover

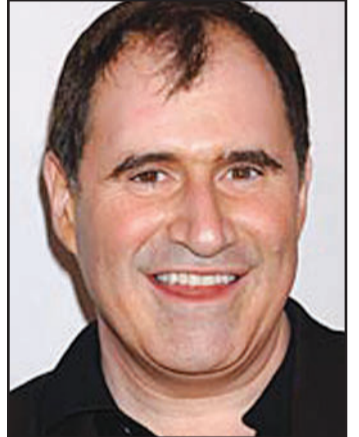
with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Caribbean film



Academy Award and Golden Globe nominee Virginia Madsen will attend the screening of her latest movie, The Magic of Bell Isle, also starring Morgan Freeman at the Aruba International Film Festival. Virginia is a mother, a model, and a very talented and experienced actress who has starred in films such as Highlander II, Sideways, Firewall, The Number 23, The Haunting in Connecticut and Red Riding Hood. Don't miss seeing Virginia on the red carpet and "In Conversation With."

Richard Kind is best recognized for his concurrent roles on the long-running sitcoms Mad About You (NBC, 1992-99) and Spin City (ABC, 1996

-2002). When those shows ended, Kind remained on the small screen with a recurring role as Larry David's obnoxious and needy cousin on Curb Your Enthusiasm (HBO 2000 -) and as Harvey Korman, an annoying hypochondriac in Scrubs, who claimed that having the same name as Harvey Korman did not "get as much action as you may think."



Kind's film career high water mark in the Coen brothers' A Serious Man (2009), gained him a cult following, but Kind's voice characterizations in Disney/Pixar animated hits like A Bug's Life and Cars truly afforded the actor the opportunity to stretch his legs and exercise his talent for unpredictable stage comedy.

Continued on page 4

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University of Aruba to host Kingdom Symposium on June 25



L.- r.: Glenn Thode, Maurits Malmberg, Indra Duarte, and Prime Minister Eman

Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman welcomed media to the European House in the Dr. Edward Cheung Center for Innovation to announce a multi-island symposium to be conducted on Monday, June 25, examining and debating the advantages of being part of the Dutch Kingdom.

The symposium is a natural result of the first Kingdom Conference of December, 2011, where representatives of all entities within Dutch Kingdom gathered in Holland. At the urging of the Prime Minister, the Univer-

sity of Aruba, working with Head of the Bureau European Union & Kingdom Affairs (BEUK) Indra Duarte, and Director of the European House on Aruba, Maurits Malmberg collaborated in organizing the upcoming event. University of Aruba Rector Glenn Thode was present to express the enthusiasm of the university faculties for this symposium which will encourage the sharing of ideas and debate. "These aspects of the event are very interesting to the university," he confirmed.

The symposium will welcome representatives from Holland and all entities that now comprise the Dutch Kingdom, including the 5 islands of the former Netherlands Antilles, which was dissolved in 2010. Curacao, San Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba will all be present for the symposium, even though the latter three are not independent, autonomous entities within the kingdom, but have been somewhat "absorbed" as protected municipalities.

Guest speakers will be Jaime Saleh, former Governor-General of the Netherlands Antilles from 1990 until 2002 who was made an Honorary Minister of State of the Netherlands Antilles in 2004. He is now a Professor in Constitutional Law at the University of Utrecht, Holland.

Peter Hartman is the CEO of KLM Airlines, which plays a vital role in the continuing connection between Holland with the territories in the Caribbean. Ernst Hirsch Ballin served as Minister of Justice and Minister for Suriname and Netherlands Antilles Affairs from November 1989 until May 1994. In 2010 he retired from politics and returned to a position as Professor at the University of Amsterdam and the Tilburg University as a legal scholar.

Keynote Speaker is Herman Tjeenk-Willink, former Vice President of the Council of States who served as a Member of the Senate from June 23, 1987 and became the President of the Senate on June 11, 1991. He resigned both positions when becoming Vice President of the Council and top advisor to HRM Queen Beatrix.

Continued on page 3

Aruba Animal Rights Foundation gets preview on new law on dogs!



Last Monday, the AVP Fraction in Parliament met with members of the Animal Rights Foundation to listen to their observations regarding the new law on dogs. The Animal Rights Foundation (ARA) was represented by their President, Andreina Wever and Treasurer, Martrude Rudgers. They reviewed the various articles of the law, and indicated to the Parliamentarians the changes they would like to see made in the law based on their personal experience with the problems.

ARA has been working tirelessly on the protection of our animals, especially that of dogs. It is believed that there are about 9 to 10 thousand dogs put to sleep every year because of the lack of control and protection of these animals.

Reportedly, the entire Dutch Kingdom is notorious for the abuse of animals. The Dutch Kingdom is on the list of countries known internationally for their abuse of animals. One of the biggest problems of Holland is the manner in which they treat their animals without anesthesia. In Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten, the problem is the great amount of dogs that are simply put to sleep.

The new law on dogs, have

just reached Parliament for its round of questioning and response. After this period, the law will be deliberated on in August or September of this year.

The hope is that this law will result in reducing the number of dogs wandering our streets and put Aruba's name in a positive light with respect to the treatment of our animals.

The government, through the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) has donated 200 thousand Aruban florins to ARA to be used to castrate or neuter street dogs. These dogs are kept at the Animal Shelter while they wait for a new owner. This will help solve the problem of dogs parading the streets aimlessly.

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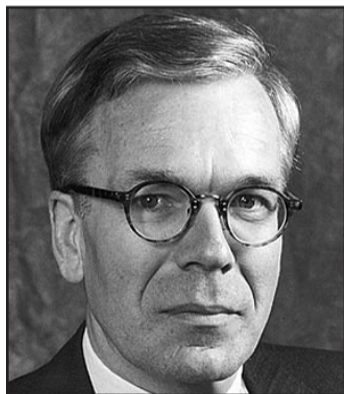
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University of Aruba to host Kingdom Symposium on June 25

Continued from page 2



Herman Tjeenk Willink

The objective of the symposium is to invite discussion and debate regarding the reciprocal added value for both the Dutch Caribbean entities and Holland as well as to ponder the question of complete independence, as some political factions agitate to see realized.

The concept of complete sovereignty and self-rule balanced against the many advantages of continued

partnership with Holland, and thusly, the European Union, is a banner carried by some, but a doubtful goal in the minds of many. The upcoming symposium is aimed at examining all the possibilities and benefits of the continued relationship, as well as the drawbacks. A final paper will be issued by the University of Aruba of their findings.

by Rosalie Klein

AIFF announces extra presentation for Raymann Live

The interest and demand of Raymond fans is huge. The famous TV presenter is booked to perform on Aruba during the International Film Festival on June 26th and 26th. But to the dismay of many fans these 2 shows are completely sold out!

Based on the demand for this show, the AIFF organization decided to have an extra presentation on Wednesday, June 27th. Also all those who reserved tickets for the June 26 & 27th shows are requested to pass and pick their tickets at Cas di Cultura this week, if not

your tickets will be sold!

Jörgen Raymann was born in Amsterdam, but grew up in Surinam. He is an actor, writer, cabaret performer, comedian and TV presenter in The Netherlands. He is best known for his late-night show 'Raymann is Laat.'

This extra show will also be at the Cas di Cultura. All profits of this show will go to the restoration and renovation of the Cas di Cultura, our national theatre, to keep on contributing to the cultural development of our community.



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AIFF to welcome Danny Glover,

Continued from page 4



Two-time Academy Award winning film editor Pietro Scalia began his rise to fame working with director Oliver Stone. After five years as an assistant editor, his first full credit for Stone was JFK, for which he received an Academy Award. He worked with Bernardo Bertolucci on Little Buddha and Stealing Beauty and won an Oscar nomination for Good Will Hunting with director Gus Van Sant before teaming up with director Ridley Scott, with whom he still is associated. He was nominated a second time for Scott's Gladiator and won his second Oscar for Black Hawk Down. After editing the 2005 blockbuster Memoirs of a Geisha for Rob Marshall, and working on Peter Weber's Hannibal Rising in 2006, he has returned to work

with Scott on the upcoming The Amazing Spiderman, due in theaters July 3rd, and Prometheus, a sci-fi thriller also due out this summer. Scalia will conduct a master class in editing which will be open to the public with excerpts from his films.

Film Producer Steve Stabler co-founded the Motion Picture Corporation of America with Brad Kervoy, in 1986, and serves as co-chairman. Stabler is in charge of supervising all phases of film production. Throughout his career, Stabler has given many first-time directors their start. Among them Peter and Bobby Farrelly (Dumb and Dumber, Kingpin), Kevin Spacey (Albino Alligator), Jon Turteltaub (Driving Me Crazy, Think Big.)

The Aruba International Film Festival will take place from June 22 through 28, with screening and master classes, the "In Dialog With..." series, allowing conversation with noted performers and filmmakers at their hub, The Cinemas at Paseo Herencia. For full schedule and ticketing visit the AIFF Website: <http://www.arubainternationalfilmfestival.com>

by Rosalie Klein



Major traffic diversion due to construction work on School buildings

NOORD -- The government information service has recently issued a bulletin informing motorists about the changes in the traffic due to construction work to begin on the St. Annaschool in Noord. The St. Annaschool consists of two separate buildings. And, because the contractor will be working on both buildings simultaneously, it will be imperative that they close the entrance leading to the two school buildings.

Consequently, the entrance to the Church, the Cayena Kindergarten school, the St. Aloysius school and the Don Bosco Club via the bridge of the Church will be blocked off. Motorists will have to use the primary entrance to the Church to get to Cayena Kleuterschool, St. Aloysius school and

the Don Bosco Club.

The completion date of the renovation and expansion of the two school buildings is set for the first of March 2013.

It will be possible to use the bridge in front of the Veterinary Clinic to reach the St. Aloysius school. During the week they will try to keep some space open so that pedestrians can get through. Chauffeurs are kindly requested to be considerate with pedestrians, and especially with children.

The Department of Public Works (DOW) has informed SKOA, heads of the schools and residents in Noord of the situation and has requested their cooperation and understanding during these weeks up until March 2013 when the work is expected to be completed.

Peru high court clears way to extradite Dutch killer to US

LIMA (AFP) - Peru's top court has allowed the extradition to the United States of Dutch national Joran Van der Sloot, but only after he serves a 28-year sentence here for the murder of a young Peruvian woman.

"The Supreme Court of Peru has accepted a request by the Alabama federal court to extradite Van der Sloot to the United States," said a statement yesterday.

The ruling, in accordance

with an extradition treaty between Lima and Washington, however also "postpones the extradition until the convicted prisoner has finished his sentence" in Peru.

Van der Sloot, 24, plead guilty and was sentenced in January to 28 years in prison for the "cruel and savage" murder of 21-year-old Peruvian Stephany Flores on May 30, 2010.

Van der Sloot's attorney,

Maximo Altez, told AFP that his client is "satisfied with the decision" of the high court. "He has never refused to go to the United States, once he finishes his sentence, so that's what we wanted," he said.

In the United States, it is alleged that Van der Sloot extorted \$25,000 from Holloway's parents in exchange for information about their daughter. Once he received the money, he fled to Peru.

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Royal Power is this year's champion in the Copa Noord Tournament!

One of the activities which bring people together in the barrios is sports, and during the past weekend this was evident as the Softball team, Copa Noord, got together for their exiting annual tournament. Copa Noord happens to be a well organized and well structured team. They created a tremendous family atmosphere and friendship on the field during the past tournament. The Minister of Public Health was also present cheering on the various teams during the championship games.

The Minister took some time to make mention of the different projects simultaneously in the works which are designed to help combat the problem of obesity in our community. Much is being done to create a broad base to structurally work on eliminating obesity and overweight of our future generation, according to the Minister. For this reason, the government is focusing on having sufficient adequate locations where our people can



exercise, such as at a recreation park.

It is evident that more and more people are becoming more physically active, especially on the weekends. We are becoming more aware of the importance of eating healthy and doing physical exercise. Many more people are walking in the early mornings or afternoons. IDE-FRE is now organizing weekly walking events, which, by the way, has grown by 300%. Our young people must join in and become

more physically active. According to the Minister of Public Health, only 9% of young girls and 13% of boys are practising an organized sport, which are extremely low percentages when compared to other countries.

Apparently the government is working on creating a new work team to work primarily on our parks. They will give priority to this and also repair all sports fields that have deteriorated over the years. The Ministry is also giving attention to our

“top sports,” with a focus on our athletes and sports organizations to improve the quality of sports even more. The government announced that 5 schools will begin a pilot program of introducing sports into education in a structured manner, with the objective of amplifying the sports base and reaching more children for sports.

Copa Noord is organized by the Royal Power Softball Team and dedicated this year's activities to two stalwarts of Softball, namely, Tico Alberts and Ely Ters. This particular championship exists since 1979. Every year

12 teams play once a year in this championship played on the Kudawecha Sports field.

The four teams to advance to the final were, Tanki Leendert Giants, Gass Power, Kudawecha Redskins and Royal Power. This year, the Kudawecha team became second place winner while Royal Power resulted in being the champion of this year's tournament. All in all this was a tremendous championship this year and was enjoyed by all participants, fans and the general public. Congatulations to the winners and our fantastic athletes!



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

China dismisses French demand on Tiananmen prisoners

BEIJING (AFP) - China on Tuesday dismissed France's demand for the release of political prisoners jailed after the 1989 crackdown on Tiananmen democracy protests, saying it was strongly opposed to such "interference".

France on Monday joined the United States in calling on China to release prisoners jailed 23 years ago after troops stormed central Beijing, ending six weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations.

China still considers the Tiananmen demonstrations a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" and has refused to acknowledge any wrongdoing or consider compensation for the hundreds, and perhaps thousands, killed.

On Monday, French foreign ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said Paris "wants to see Chinese prisoners of conscience freed".



People take part in a candlelight vigil in Hong Kong on June 4

"We recall our unwavering commitment to the defence of human rights, including the fundamental right to freedom of expression, in China and around the world," he said.

"The European Union consistently brings the situation of Tiananmen prisoners to the attention of the Chinese authorities. (The EU) has called

numerous times for their early release, which would be a positive gesture," he said.

Rights campaigners and petitioners said Monday that Chinese authorities had rounded up hundreds of activists in Beijing as they marked the 23rd anniversary of the June 3-4, 1989 crackdown.

Dutch groups agree on ritual animal slaughter reforms



THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch Agriculture Deputy Minister Henk Bleker signed an agreement with religious leaders Tuesday to make ritual slaughter more humane, including stunning animals after 40 seconds.

"The agreement states that animals have to be unconscious 40 seconds after a cut to the neck has been performed," Bleker's ministry said in a statement, adding: "if not the case, the animal has to be stunned."

The agreement also insisted the cut "had to be done with one fluid uninterrupted movement."

Plans by the Dutch Lower House for a law requiring animals to be stunned before halal or kosher slaughter suffered a setback late last year when parliament's Upper House, which has the final say, gave it the thumbs down, urging a compromise solution.

Bleker then met Dutch Muslim and Jewish representatives for a solution.

He said Tuesday's accord was "a good balance ... between religious freedom and the improvement of the wel-

fare of animals."

A scientific advice committee has also been set up to answer any questions about the agreement, which comes into force on Wednesday.

Dutch law requires animals to be stunned before butchering but makes an exception for ritual halaal and kosher slaughter.

In June last year, the Dutch Lower House voted in favour of an amended proposal by the country's Party for the Animals (PvdD), which holds two seats in the 150-seat Lower House, for a law that all animals should be stunned.

The plan drew outrage from both the Muslim and Jewish communities, whose representatives insisted ritual slaughter respected the animals' welfare and that those doing the slaughtering were expertly trained.

More than two million animals -- mainly sheep and chickens -- are ritually slaughtered in the Netherlands every year, according to the PvdD. Muslim groups dispute the figure, saying it is closer to 250,000.

Police round up Honduran gang leaders at funeral



TEGUCIGALPA (AFP) - Honduran police arrested more than 20 gang leaders at the funeral of a member of the Mara 18, one of the country's two

major criminal groups, a senior government official told AFP Tuesday.

Unnamed "citizens" told police that the Mara 18 leaders were expected at the burial of a gang member killed in a firefight with private security guards on Saturday, Security Ministry spokesman Hector Ivan Mejia told AFP.

Police went to San Buenaventura, 25 kilometers north of the capital, and rounded up several gang members during the Monday burial ceremony at the cemetery, Mejia said.

Some suspects escaped the initial raid, but were tracked down by police and arrested after a shoot-out that rattled the quiet of the small town of

5,000, local media reported.

"More than 20 were arrested, many of them are heads of neighborhoods in the capital that faced arrest warrants," Mejia said.

The Mara 18 (or 18th Street Gang) and the rival Mara Salvatrucha are active in Honduras and across Central America, as well as the United States.

Each group has tens of thousands of members identifiable by numerous tattoos and are involved in crimes that include drug trafficking and extortion.

According to the UN, Honduras is the most violent country in the world, with an annual homicide rate of 86 per 100,000 inhabitants.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bond hearing in Florida race case weeks away

MIAMI (AFP) - The neighborhood watch volunteer accused of shooting dead an unarmed black teenager in the US state of Florida will not get a new bond hearing for a couple of weeks, his lawyer said yesterday.

George Zimmerman, 28, faces second degree murder charges over the death of Trayvon Martin, 17, who was headed home from a late-night run to a convenience store in Sanford, Florida when Zimmerman shot him after a confrontation.

The racially-charged case caused an uproar in the United States, mainly over authorities' initial reluctance to press charges against Zimmerman, who insists that he acted in self-defense in the February 26 incident.

A judge on Friday revoked Zimmerman's bail and ordered him to return to jail after prosecutors argued he had misled the court about having no money, despite tens of thousands of dollars sitting in on-line fundraising accounts.

Zimmerman, who is Peruvian-American, turned himself in shortly before a 48-hour

deadline to surrender expired.

On Tuesday, his lawyer Mark O'Mara said the defense had decided to delay filing a motion for a second bond hearing.

The judge in April set Zimmerman's bond at \$150,000, but prosecutors say that figure relied on "false representations and statements" by the defendant and his wife.

Zimmerman's return to jail on Sunday represents just the latest twist in the case, which prompted protests in several US cities and comments from President Barack Obama, who said if he'd had a son, he would have looked like Martin.

Prosecutors say Martin was simply "minding his own business" when he was accosted and shot dead by Zimmerman after buying an iced tea and some Skittles candy from a local store.

Zimmerman told police he had been tracking Martin whom he had viewed as suspicious, but shot and killed the teen purely in self-defense after being assaulted by him. Police later released photos showing a bloody gash on the back of the guard's head.

US Senate Republicans block wage equity bill

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Senate Republicans blocked a bill Tuesday that would have made it easier for women to sue their employers to ensure pay equality, a move President Barack Obama called "incredibly disappointing."

With lawmakers voting along exact party lines, the Paycheck Fairness Act introduced by Democrats fell eight

votes shy of the 60 necessary to make it to the Senate floor for debate.

"It's a very sad day here in the United States Senate, but it's a sadder day everyday when paycheck day comes and women continue to make less than men," Democrat Barbara Mikulski, the longest-serving woman senator and a supporter of the bill, said after the vote.

The White House had been an advocate of the bill, which Democrats said would have strengthened laws against wage discrimination by barring companies from retaliating against employees who voluntarily share pay data with colleagues, and would have made it easier for women to file pay discrimination lawsuits.

US says Al-Qaeda number two died in drone strike



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said Tuesday that Al-Qaeda number two Abu Yahya al-Libi was killed in a drone strike in Pakistan, claiming its top terror scalp from the group since eliminating Osama bin Laden.

"Our government has been able to confirm Al-Libi's death," said White House spokesman Jay Carney, after another official earlier said Washington had a "high degree of confidence" that Libi was killed.

Officials refused to confirm the circumstances of his death, but Pakistani officials had previously revealed a CIA drone strike on Monday on a compound in North Waziristan, a Taliban and Al-Qaeda stronghold along the Afghan border.

"It is significant," an official said, arguing that Libi was in charge of Al-Qaeda operations in Pakistan and outreach

to affiliates such as Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which has attacked US targets.

Officials were unable to say whether there were any other casualties in the attack on Libi, after earlier reports that 15 people had died in the drone strike.

News of the killing of Libi followed reports detailing the scope of the US campaign against global terrorism, including revelations that President Barack Obama personally presides over a "kill list" of top suspects.

Libi's death will also bolster Obama's credentials as a steely commander-in-chief as he seeks to repel claims of weakness abroad leveled by his Republican opponent in November's election, Mitt Romney.

But it may again worsen tenuous US ties with nominal anti-terror ally Pakistan, severely harmed by drone strikes, a US raid that killed bin Laden last year and Pakistan's refusal to reopen NATO supply lines into Afghanistan.

A trusted lieutenant of bin Laden, Libi appeared in countless Al-Qaeda videos and was considered the chief architect of its global propaganda machine.

"It is incredibly disappointing that in this make-or-break moment for the middle class, Senate Republicans put partisan politics ahead of American women and their families," Obama said in a statement.

"Despite the progress that has been made over the years, women continue to earn substantially less than men for performing the same work," he said.

"My administration will continue to fight for a woman's right for equal pay for equal work, as we rebuild our economy so that hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded and every American gets a fair shot to succeed."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said no Republicans were voting for the legislation because it was merely "about rewarding plaintiff lawyers for filing lawsuits."

Republicans were largely silent on the issues on the Senate floor Tuesday, except for Nevada's Dean Heller who introduced a bill that is less comprehensive than Mikulski's.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid attacked Republicans for downplaying the problem and blocking "any attempts to try to change the inequities that are out there for everyone to see."

"They want to stick their heads in the sand and ignore the reality that American women experience every day," Reid said shortly before the vote.

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Health & Living

16 held over Afghan schoolgirl 'poisoning'

KABUL (AFP) - Sixteen people have been arrested over the alleged serial poisoning of schoolgirls in Afghanistan, although some doctors now suspect psychological stress could be behind the "attacks", officials said Tuesday.

The sweeping arrests come as desperate authorities try to put an end to the mysterious illnesses -- usually mass fainting episodes -- that have struck scores of schoolgirls in northern Takhar province almost daily for the past two weeks.

Among those held are a Pakistani woman working in a clinic and a Taliban insurgent leader, provincial spokesman Mostafa Rasuli told AFP. All have denied any involvement, and no proof of poisoning has been found, he said.

As AFP reported last week, an expert in the field is convinced that the incidents are classic examples of mass psychogenic illness, or mass hysteria, rather than poisoning.

Some doctors in the area now share this belief, an education ministry spokesman, Abdul Saboor Ghufrani, said Tuesday -- a day when 60 schoolgirls in two separate schools were affected.

"There have been a number of suspected poisoning cases of schoolgirls in Takhar province recently, but initial investigation by health and security teams in the area have failed to detect traces of any poison," Ghufrani told AFP.

"In some cases doctors in the area have reported they suspect a psychological cause behind these incidents, but we cannot yet definitely rule out the possibility of deliberate attempt by some group to sicken our students.

Local officials regularly accuse Taliban insurgents, who banned schooling for girls while in power from 1996 to 2001, of poisoning school wells or using "gas" or "toxic powder" against the girls.

But with no physical cause established, Robert Bartholomew, a sociologist and author specialising in the field, told AFP the poisoning scares had "all the earmarks of mass psychogenic illness, also known as mass hysteria".

He noted there was a history of similar cases in combat zones, listing examples from the Palestinian territories in 1983 to Soviet Georgia in 1989 and Kosovo in 1990.

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Critics say Indian law on teenage sex 'regressive'

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India is raising the age of consent for sex to 18 under a new law seen by some children's rights activists as being out of step with social changes and open to abuse.

Under a provision in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act approved by parliament last month, sex with a person under the age of 18 will be deemed as statutory rape and subject to prosecution.

Once formally signed into law by the president, the new legislation will supersede a

clause in India's Penal Code that previously set the age of consent at 16 and will carry sentences ranging from three years to life imprisonment.

Critics say the change is open to misuse by police and overprotective parents, puts India at odds with other countries and is further proof of a government run by elderly politicians out of touch with most of the country.

The third National Family Health Survey, the most recent comprehensive government study from 2005-2006, states that 43 percent of women

aged 20-24 had had sex before they were 18.

In rural areas, the high proportion is because of the prevalence of child marriage - more than 47 percent of women aged 20-24 were married by 18 -- while in urban areas attitudes on everything from religion to sex are changing.

Surveys from news magazines such as India Today and Outlook find young urban Indians are increasingly open to pre-marital intercourse and more exposed to sex through pornography or steamy films

and television shows than ever before.

But experts in favour of the change say it will help protect the most vulnerable sections of society, including the millions of girls and young women who work as servants in Indian homes.

The age of consent across the world ranges from 13 to 18, with many countries, including Britain, Norway and Canada setting it at 16, according to Avert, a British charity that works in sexual health.



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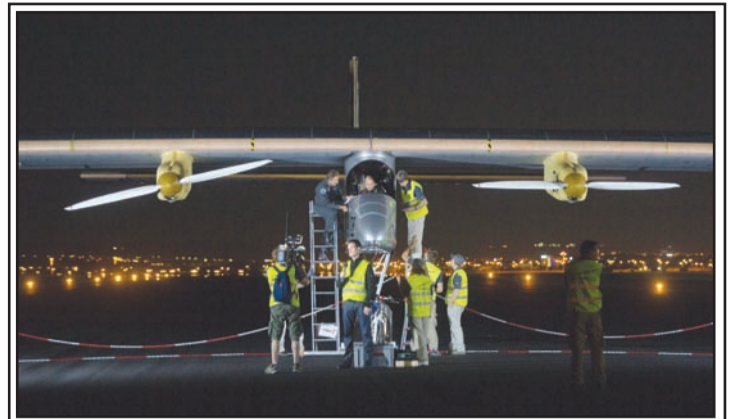
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Sci-Tech



MADRID: Crew members prepare the Swiss sun-powered aircraft Solar Impulse for take off on June 5, 2012 at the Barajas airport in Madrid on its first attempted intercontinental flight from Switzerland to Morocco. A Swiss adventurer took off into the night skies above Madrid and headed for Rabat on the world's first intercontinental flight in a solar-powered plane. Bernard Piccard, 54-year-old psychiatrist and balloonist, piloted the Solar Impulse plane, a giant as big as an Airbus A340 but as light as an average family car, on the daring voyage from Europe to Africa.
AFP PHOTO

Greenpeace activists fly over Spain's oldest nuclear plant

MADRID (AFP) - Two Greenpeace activists flew over Spain's oldest nuclear power plant Tuesday in a motorised paraglider to draw attention to the alleged lack of security at the facility, the organisation said.

The activists threw smoke bombs on the roof of the building that houses the reactor of the Garona nuclear plant located near the northern city of Burgos from the paraglider, which carried a banner that read "Garona close now".

In February Spain's conservative government extended by five years the operating licence of Garona, which began operating in 1971.

"With this action Greenpeace reiterates that there is no economic or energetic reason that justifies the extension of Garona's licence," Greenpeace said in a statement, adding its stunt "highlights the lack of safety at the plant".

Garona is owned in equal parts by Spanish power companies Iberdrola and Endesa via their joint venture Nucleonor.

Greenpeace has pressed for its closure, portraying it as a "twin sister" of the Fukushima plant in Japan that was hit by an earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, causing reactor meltdowns.

Garona had been due to close on April 1, 2013 under a decision taken by Spain's previous Socialist government.

But lawmakers in February agreed to eliminate the pre-established lifespan limit of 40 years for the country's six nuclear power stations as Spain tries to reduce its dependence on petroleum energy sources.

Last month Greenpeace activists in France flew a motorised paraglider inside the grounds of the Bugey nuclear power plant in the southeast of the country to expose the vulnerability of the facility.



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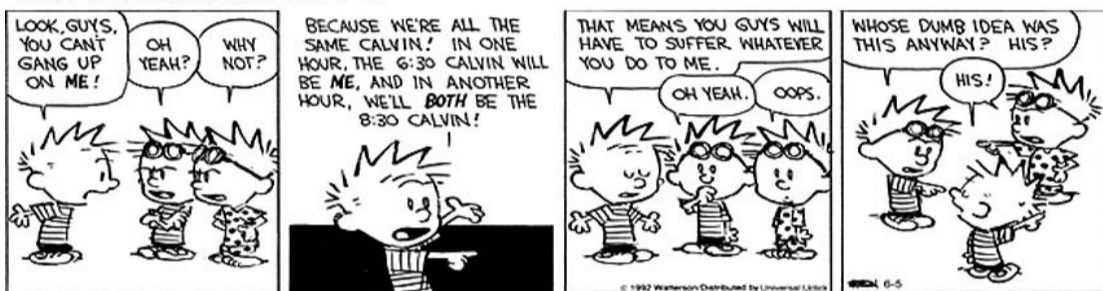
PICKLES



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ACROSS

- 1. Discharge a debt
- 4. Ridicule
- 8. Horde
- 11. Cassini of fashion
- 13. Strict guideline
- 14. Be obliged
- 15. "Tarzan" movie sound
- 16. Raging
- 18. RFK's wife
- 20. Cycle starter
- 21. Molar
- 24. Military detective show
- 28. Biblical prophet
- 30. "Casablanca" role
- 31. Grounded Aussie bird
- 32. Jumps over
- 35. Colgate's competition
- 36. Competes
- 38. Fame
- 40. One against
- 41. Computer game format (hyph.)
- 42. League for the Cowboys (abbr.)
- 44. Train bunk
- 48. Bargainers
- 53. Asta's owner
- 54. Self-esteem
- 55. Every
- 56. Comic Laurel
- 57. Kanga's baby
- 58. Hospital "photo"

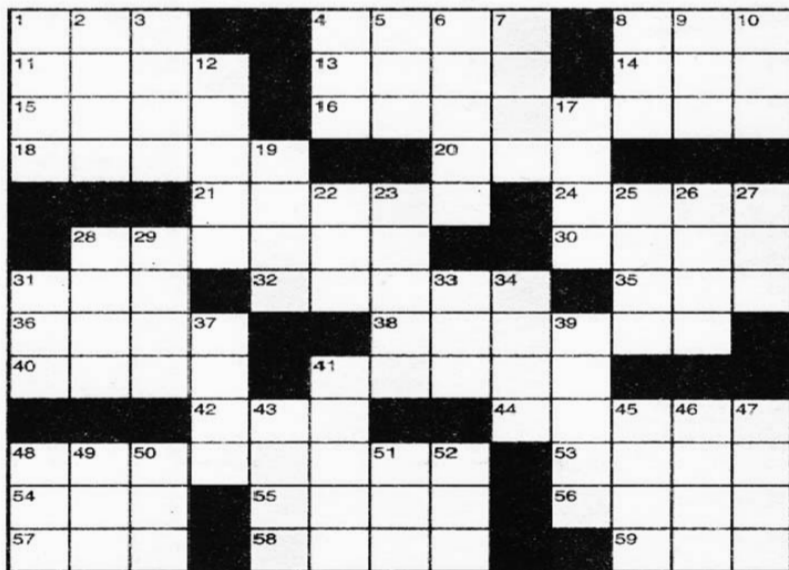
(hyph.)
59. Mommy's three

DOWN

- 1. Skin opening
- 2. "___ you know!" (2 wds.)
- 3. Okey-doke
- 4. Dash or Butterworth
- 5. ___ to lunch
- 6. Supple material
- 7. Actress Deborah
- 8. Me (Fr.)
- 9. "Mind your ___"

- business!"
- 10. Plead
- 12. Garbo of film
- 17. ___-Me from "Austin Powers"
- 19. Superman's gal
- 22. Country's ___ Ridge Boys
- 23. After second
- 25. Pincer
- 26. "The doctor ___" (2 wds.)
- 27. "Cheers" barkeep
- 28. "___ the Mood for Love" (2 wds.)
- 29. Hard fat

- 31. Actress Longoria
- 33. Through
- 34. Social climber
- 37. Perform an aria
- 39. Warning signs
- 41. Transparent
- 43. Muscleman's move
- 45. Fixed routine
- 46. Miner's cart
- 47. Actor Conried
- 48. H.R.H. starter
- 49. Part of history
- 50. Sticky mess
- 51. Panasonic rival
- 52. Reserved



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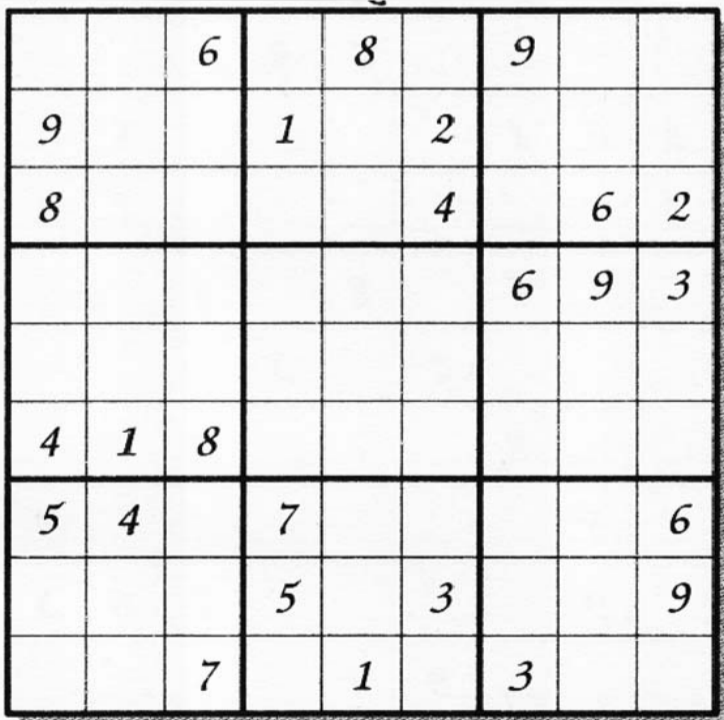
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6	7	4	8	2	5	1	8	9
9	1	2	8	6	7	4	5	3
4	2	5	6	9	8	1	7	3
1	8	7	2	5	7	6	9	4
5	6	9	1	7	8	2	5	4
2	9	1	7	4	6	5	8	3
5	8	2	9	1	7	4	6	3
4	7	6	5	8	9	2	1	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Congressional study warns of dire US debt outlook

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US debt is on track to double the size of the entire economy in the next 25 years, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office reported yesterday in its grim view of America's fiscal future.

The CBO said that under present policy, in which current tax rates are upheld and lawmakers do not curb entitlements, the portion of national debt held by the public would soar from 70 percent of GDP as forecast for the end of 2012 to 100 percent of GDP in just over a decade.

"After that, the growing imbalance between revenues and spending, combined with spiraling interest payments, would swiftly push debt to higher and higher levels," the CBO said in its 2012 Long-term Budget Outlook.

"Debt as a share of GDP would exceed its historical peak of 109 percent by 2026, and it would approach 200 percent in 2037."

The US economy is facing

historic pressure in coming decades due to the aging of the US population: the demands of the large "baby-boom" generation -- those born between the end of World War II and the early 1960s -- will lead to a significant sustained increase in the share of people receiving benefits such as Social Security and Medicare.

But decisions on taxes and spending will also have huge ramifications on future debt levels, said CBO director Doug Elmendorf, who will testify before Congress today on the office's findings.

The report maps out two separate trajectories, including the extended baseline scenario in which federal debt would gradually decline over the next quarter century to 53 percent of GDP, thanks to relatively high revenue levels and low levels of spending on non-health-care programs.

"The budget outlook is much bleaker under the alternative fiscal scenario... because revenues would remain

at levels similar to those experienced historically, while spending would grow because of aging and rising health care costs," Elmendorf said in the report.

Such an explosive debt trajectory, forecast under current policies, "underscores the need for large and timely policy changes to put the federal government on a sustainable fiscal course," the report said.

The latest CBO data is likely to provide fodder for Republican White House hopeful Mitt Romney and congressional Republicans, who say tackling long-term debt is crucial for creating business confidence and hence new jobs.

Spain says credit markets closing its door, G7 takes no action

MADRID/TOKYO - Spain said yesterday that credit markets were closing to the euro zone's fourth biggest economy as finance chiefs of the Group of Seven major economies conferred on the currency bloc's worsening debt crisis but took no joint action.

Treasury Minister Cristóbal Montoro sent out a dramatic distress signal about the impact of his country's banking crisis on government borrowing, saying that at current rates, financial markets were effectively shut to Spain.

The European Union's top economic official, Olli Rehn, said Madrid had not requested EU assistance, but German newspaper Die Welt said European officials were considering offering Spain a precautionary credit line via the bloc's rescue fund by mid-June.

"The risk premium says Spain doesn't have the market door open," Montoro said on Onda Cero radio. "The risk premium says that as a state we have a problem in accessing markets, when we need to refinance our debt."

Spain is beset by bank debts triggered by the bursting of a real estate bubble in 2008, aggravated by overspending by its autonomous regions.



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NICOSIA : A woman rides her scooter in the empty city center of Nicosia on June 5, 2012. Eurozone member Cyprus conceded that there is a serious possibility it may need an EU bailout to save its banking system, which is heavily exposed to Greek debt. (AFP PHOTO)



CHINA, Shanghai : A giant screen outside a shopping complex displays the various Australian tourism advertisements in Shanghai on June 5, 2012. Australia launched a multi-million dollar global tourism campaign in Shanghai, targeting China's growing affluent classes who are venturing overseas in greater numbers. (AFP PHOTO)

Czech parliament approves EU rescue fund

PRAGUE, The Czech Republic (AFP) - Czech lawmakers yesterday approved the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), the European Union's permanent rescue fund created to help struggling eurozone countries deal with a crippling debt crisis.

The ESM, with core funds of 500 billion euros (\$624 billion), was backed by 140 lawmakers of 189 present in the 200-seat Czech parliament.

Ardent euro-sceptic Czech President Vaclav Klaus still has to endorse the vote for the process of Czech approval to be complete.

The ESM will be formally launched in July and will run in parallel with the temporary European Financial Stability Facility for one year.

this will not happen during its term ending in 2014, given the eurozone crisis.

Earlier this year, the Czech Republic and Britain refused to join the 27-member EU's so-called fiscal compact designed to ensure greater economic integration across the bloc by setting agreed deficit and other targets, alongside penalties for failing to meet them.

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Canada	CAD	1.69	1.71	1.73
Britain	GBP	2.67	2.72	2.78
Switzerland	CHF	184.12	184.84	185.64
Netherlands	EUR	219.36	221.37	223.59
Sweden	SEK	23.69	24.41	25.21
Denmark	DKK	28.82	29.54	30.34
Norway	NOK	28.17	28.89	29.69
Japan	JPY	225.57	227.63	229.91

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L	C	P	A	T	I	O	O	R	E
E	L	V	I	S	T	O	W		
E	I	N	G	R	A	N	D	M	A
S	A	C	B	A	A	S	T	O	P
A	R	O	T	T	H	O	T		
W	E	N	R	E	S	N	E	D	
A	N	N	O	Y	E	D	C	O	P
E	V	A	M	A	R	L	O		
D	R	L	I	A	R	S	A	N	Y
O	G	E	L	L	I	S	T	E	D
M	Y	L	P	S	E	S			



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And the real winner is CasMarie! Proceeds of fun fundraising golf tournament go to dementia patients

The first prize of 8th edition of the annual Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament went to winners Don Quant and Maximo Wernet this year, but the real winner is charity CasMarie, the foundation that supports dementia patients and their families. An oversized cheque of AWG. 15.000,- was handed over last Thursday in the company of organizer of the tournament and Wente Vineyards representative Govert van der Hout of Arion Wine Company and Mr. and Mrs. Ellis of lovely Papiamento Restaurant.



The popular, one-day golf event was held at Tierra del Sol on Saturday, March 31. The event was once again a great success, starting off with a cocktail party on the day before the shot-gun start and finishing with a great soup buffet around the pool at Tierra del Sol. Fourth-generation Wente Vineyards owner Eric Wente was present as well: he had played a mean game of golf together with Westin Resort manager Richard Roy. Eric and Roy finished in a respectable 25th place of the 59 teams.

Pro Medico, Robertson Fire Protection, Setar, Toyota Prius, VNO in Aruba, Oduber and Kan and Now! Main sponsors of the event were Wente Vineyards, Papiamento Restaurant, Tierra del Sol and Arion Wine Company.

Many local companies as well as the golfers supported the fundraising tournament so that this excellent amount of money could be raised. Valued sponsors of the 2012 edition of the Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament included American Airlines, Aruba Airport Authority, ASAP, Aruba Bank, Riedel the Wine Glass Company, Crystal Casino, Dufry, Fatum, Friomax, Home & Nature, ITP Caribbean, Nagico Aruba NV, Plus Accountants,

Springsteen favored to write new US anthem: poll

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Twenty-two percent of Americans think veteran rocker Bruce Springsteen should compose a new US national anthem to replace "The Star-Spangled Banner," suggests an online poll released Monday.

That's more than the 19 percent who think country legend Dolly Parton is up to the task, or the 18 percent who favor soulman Stevie Wonder, according to the poll for the CBS current affairs show "60 Minutes" and Vanity Fair magazine.

Eleven percent named venerable singer-songwriter Bob Dylan, 10 percent favor

movie soundtrack composer John Williams, eight percent voted for rapper Jay-Z and five percent named pop diva Madonna.

Pollsters telephoned a random sample of 1,026 adults nationwide between April 27 and 30 for the poll, which had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Based on a poem by Francis Scott Key describing the British naval bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland during the War of 1812, "The Star-Spangled Banner" has been the official US national anthem since 1931.

Queen Elizabeth 'humbled' by jubilee celebrations



LONDON (AFP) - Queen Elizabeth II said Tuesday the four days of events for her diamond jubilee had been "humbling", in a rare broadcast address to Britain and the Commonwealth. Millions of people have turned out for the celebrations of her 60 years on the throne, which included a huge river pageant on the Thames in London on Sunday and a star-studded pop concert on Monday. The queen led a grand carriage procession through London on Tuesday and then appeared on the Buckingham Palace balcony to wave to huge crowds of well-wishers. The queen's husband Prince Philip, 90, has been absent from the festivities since being taken to hospital with a bladder infection on Monday.



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'Vampire' skeletons unearthed in Bulgaria



Photo taken on June 1, 2012 shows an archeologist cleaning a skeleton during archeological excavations in the Black Sea town of Sozopol, Bulgaria.

SOFIA (AFP) - Archaeologists in Bulgaria have unearthed two skeletons from the Middle Ages pierced through the chest with iron rods to keep them from turning into vampires, the head of the history museum said Tuesday.

According to pagan beliefs, people who were considered bad during their lifetimes might turn into vampires after death unless stabbed in the chest with an iron or wooden rod before being buried.

"These two skeletons stabbed with rods illustrate a practice which was common in some Bulgarian villages up until the first decade of the 20th century," national history museum chief Bozhidar Dimitrov said after the recent find in the Black Sea town of Sozopol.

People believed the rod would also pin the dead into their graves to prevent them from leaving at midnight and terrorising the living, the historian explained.

The practice was common, Dimitrov added, saying some 100 similar burials had already been found in Bulgaria.

Archaeologist Petar Balabanov, who in 2004 unearthed six nailed-down skeletons at a site near the eastern town of Debelt, said the pagan rite was also practiced in neighbouring Serbia and other Balkan countries.

Vampire legends are widespread across the Balkans. The most famous is that of Romanian count Vlad the Impaler, known as Dracula, who staked his war enemies and drank their blood.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



HERINGSDDORF - (LtoR) German bike designer Dieter Senft sits with Emilia and Wioleta from Poland on his selfmade tricycle that rolls on 100 footballs. Senft invented 5 bicycles and are seen in the exhibition until November in the city Pudaqla.

AFP PHOTO

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Which tactics will prevail at Euro 2012?



1988 - Van Basten en Ruud Gullit celebrating Van Basten winning goal to sealed a 2-0 victory over USSR and giving Oranje's the long-awaited first major title.

PARIS (AFP) - A goal-rich European football season suggests Euro 2012 could be a high-scoring tournament, despite the likely preponderance of apparently conservative single-striker formations.

The 2011-12 campaign was one of the most prolific in the modern history of the European game.

Barcelona and Real Madrid both smashed through the 100-goal barrier in La Liga, the Catalans amassing 114 goals and champions Madrid plundering 121 to obliterate the 107-goal season record set by John Toshack's Madrid side in 1989-90.

There were freak scorelines in the English Premier League -- notably Manchester United's 8-2 annihilation of Arsenal -- and the goals-

per-game ratio climbed in all five of Europe's major leagues except the already high-scoring German Bundesliga.

The continent's leading goalscorers sent records tumbling, and not just Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, who claimed 96 league goals between them.

Klaas-Jan Huntelaar was the first player to notch 29 goals in Germany since Karl-Heinz Rummenigge in 1981, while his Dutch team-mate Robin van Persie became only the fourth player to reach the 30-goal mark in England since 2000.

Despite a steadily diminishing goals-per-game ratio at recent World Cups (from 2.71 in 1994 to 2.27 in South Africa in 2010), the goals do not appear to be drying up in

the European Championship.

Both Euro 2004 and Euro 2008 averaged 2.48 goals per game, which was less than the 2.74 goals per game recorded at Euro 2000 but more than the rather disappointing 2.06 witnessed at Euro 1996 in England; the first tournament to feature 16 teams.

Tactically, the 4-2-3-1 formation is likely to dominate as it did at the 2010 World Cup, where the three European semi-finalists -- Germany, the Netherlands and eventual champions Spain -- all deployed versions of the same system.

All three are expected to keep faith with the 4-2-3-1 shape, although their approaches will differ: Spain are renowned for their 'tiki-taka' passing style, while both Germany and Holland rely more on fleetness of foot in attack.

Laurent Blanc's determination to cram as many attack-minded players into his team means that France are likely to stick to the 4-3-3 system that was adopted to impressive effect in the recent 2-0 friendly defeat of Serbia.

Italy were set out in a classically Italian 4-3-1-2 in their only pre-tournament friendly match, against Russia, but the 3-0 defeat inflicted upon them may prompt coach Cesare Prandelli to adapt his approach.

He has hinted that he

could introduce a three-man defence of Andrea Barzagli, Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini -- the Juventus trio who let just 20 goals past them in their side's Serie A title triumph last season.

"There's a block of seven Juve players in the squad and it's thought that the (3-5-2) system would be beneficial for several reasons," says James Horncastle, a football writer specialising in Italian football.

"The spine of the team has played it often this season; it's fresher and comes easier to them than the 4-3-1-2, which many have had to re-learn; and why not channel the confidence and winning mentality Juve players show and transplant it to Italy?"

England could be one of the few leading sides to play with two central forwards, given new coach Roy Hodgson's longstanding preference for the 4-4-2 formation.

"If you play with two (forwards), you have the added advantage that whoever receives the ball has someone in close support at all times," says Hodgson.

"And if balls are going to be played forward, you've got someone to threaten the back of the defence."

However, Wayne Rooney's absence through suspension for the first two matches of the Euro encouraged Hodgson to experiment in England's warm-up games, with Ashley Young deployed

in support of a lone striker in a 4-4-1-1 system in both matches.

On the whole, innovation is likely to be thin on the ground. At major tournaments, coaches have only a limited amount of time to drill their players and the emphasis usually falls on pragmatism rather than tactical creativity.

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Jury selection...
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University employee Mike McQueary claimed to have seen Sandusky raping a boy in the football team's locker room showers. McQueary reported the incident to his superiors, but not police.

Two university officials, former athletic director Tim Curley and vice president Gary Schultz are also charged with lying to the grand jury regarding what they knew about sexual abuse allegations and failing to report them. They are to be tried separately.

Lawyers in the case will question at least 200 people in an effort to find a panel of 12 people and several alternates with no interest in the case. The trial is scheduled to start on Monday.

Judge John Cleland earlier denied a bid from several victims to testify under pseudonyms in order to maintain their privacy.

At the French Open

PARIS (AFP) - Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer survived five-set struggles at the French Open on Tuesday to set up a mouth-watering semi-final where the Swiss legend will attempt to shatter the world number one's Grand Slam dream.

Top seed Djokovic saved four match points against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga before pulling off a nail-biting 6-1, 5-7, 5-7, 7-6 (8/6), 6-1 quarter-final win.

Third seed Federer reached a record-equalling 31st Grand Slam semi-final when he survived a brutal barrage from frail Argentine Juan Martin del

Potro before prevailing 3-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-0, 6-3.

After his triumphs at Wimbledon, the US Open and the Australian Open, Serb star Djokovic is bidding to become just the third man to hold all four Grand Slam titles at the same time and the first in 43 years.

Federer, the 16-time Grand Slam title winner and 2009 champion in Paris playing in his 50th straight Grand Slam tournament and 32nd consecutive quarter-final at the majors, took an 11-2 career advantage over the towering Argentine into Tuesday's clash.

The two remaining quarter-finals will take place today when six-time champion Rafael Nadal meets fellow

Spaniard Nicolas Almagro boasting a 7-0 career advantage.

Fourth seeded Andy Murray faces Spain's David Ferrer, defending a 5-4 series lead.

While Australia's Samantha Stosur vowed Tuesday to avenge her 2010 French Open final loss to Francesca Schiavone when she faces another petite Italian, Sara Errani, in the semi-finals.

Stosur powered past Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-1, while 25-year-old Errani saw off Angelique Kerber of Germany 6-3, 7-6 (7/2).

When Stosur beat Serena Williams to win last year's US Open, she became the first Australian woman to win a Grand Slam singles title since Evonne Goolagong Cawley at

Wimbledon in 1980.

But Stosur was knocked out of the first round of this year's Australian Open, a performance that still stings.

The last Australian woman to win at Roland Garros was Margaret Court in 1973.

Sara Errani Italy's French Open love affair reached her first Grand Slam semi-final at Roland Garros with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) victory over Germany's Angelique Kerber.

Errani, the 21st seed, made sure of Italian representation in the semi-finals for the third year in succession, following the trail blazed by compatriot Francesca Schiavone, the 2010 champion and runner-up last year.

Thunder put ...
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The Spurs were the last team to do it when they rallied to beat the New Orleans Hornets in the Western Conference semi-finals four years ago after trailing two games to none.

Manu Ginobili had a game-high 34 points and Tim Duncan finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds on Monday for the Spurs who have now lost three straight games for the first time this season.

San Antonio is the first team to lose a home game in the series and it is a tall order for the Spurs to try and come back against a younger and more athletic Thunder team.

During the lockout shortened regular season, San Antonio won two games and lost once to the Thunder. Oklahoma City beat the Spurs 108-96 in their first meeting of the season in January. The Spurs won the next two, 107-96 and 114-105.

The Spurs and Thunder rivalry goes all the way back to 1982 when the Thunder franchise was based in Seattle. This is the first playoff meeting between the two since Seattle moved to Oklahoma four years ago.

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Jury selection begins in US college coach child sex trial



HARRISBURG (AFP) - Jury selection began Tuesday in the case of Jerry Sandusky, the former Pennsylvania State University assistant American football coach accused of molesting 10 boys over a 15-year span.

Sandusky, 68, will face a jury selected from the State College area where he lives and served for years as a top aide to the late Joe Paterno, Penn State's legendary football coach.

Paterno, who headed one of the most lucrative and successful US college football teams, was fired in November for failing to go beyond his legal minimums in informing

the authorities when told that Sandusky had been seen molesting a boy in a team shower.

Paterno died from lung cancer in January at age 85.

Sandusky faces years in prison if convicted of all counts, but even a partial acquittal means he could face the rest of his life incarcerated.

The allegations have rocked Penn State and tarnished the reputation of Paterno, who was the most successful coach in college football history.

The fame of Penn State University's team and the money the victories brought in helped enlarge the school's reputation and increase its academic offerings.

Sandusky is accused of recruiting victims through a charity he ran to serve disadvantaged youths. He faces 52 criminal counts of sexually abusing at least 10 boys between 1994 and 2008, with some of the alleged incidents taking place on campus.

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NBA: Thunder put Spurs on brink of elimination



Manu Ginobili #20 of the San Antonio Spurs goes to the hoop against Kevin Durant #35 and Russell Westbrook #0 of the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game Five

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - The Oklahoma City Thunder are on the verge of reaching the NBA finals after beating San Antonio 108-103 with 27 points from Kevin Durant in game five of their Western Conference series.

Oklahoma City lost the first two games of the series but have stormed back to win three straight and now lead the Spurs in the best-of-seven series.

The Thunder can wrap up

the series with a win in game six today in Oklahoma City.

"We never thought we're supposed to wait our turn," Durant said. "Coach always emphasizes that with every opportunity that you step on the floor. It's a great opportunity to get better, to get to our dream."

Durant scored 22 of his points in the second half while Russell Westbrook finished with 23 points and 12 assists for the Thunder, who are try-

ing to advance to the franchise's first NBA finals since 1996.

James Harden drained a key three-pointer from 24 feet out with 28 seconds left and the Thunder held on for the win. Harden scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter.

"The shot clock was running down and I had to make a play," Harden said. "(Kawhi) Leonard was playing great defence on me. I just shot it with confidence. West Conference finals. That's a big shot."

Durant nailed a pair of free throws with 0.8 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

Durant was also the hero of game four, scoring 36 points in the fourth quarter after the Thunder snapped the Spurs' 20 game win streak dating back to the regular season.

"That was a total team effort," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "Everybody did their job. I thought we played as hard as we can play."

The Thunder are seeking to become the 15th team in NBA history to overcome a 2-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series.

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